

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA
CHARLOTTE DIVISION
CIVIL CASE NO. 3:22-cv-00476-MR**

DARIN ANTHONY RAY,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
vs.)	
)	
FNU RUSSELL, et al.,)	<u>ORDER</u>
)	
Defendants.)	
_____)	

THIS MATTER is before the Court on review of the Plaintiff's pro se Complaint [Doc. 1]. The Plaintiff has filed an Application to proceed *in forma pauperis*. [Doc. 2].

The pro se Plaintiff, who is incarcerated at the Marion Correctional Institution,¹ filed this civil rights action pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 addressing incidents that allegedly occurred at the Bertie Correctional Institution that is located in Windsor, North Carolina, in Bertie County. The

¹ The Plaintiff's address of record is at the Foothills Correctional Institution; however, the NCPDS website indicates that he was transferred to Marion CI on September 13, 2022, after the Complaint was filed. See chrome-extension://hehijbfgiekmjfkfjpbkbammjbden/dd/nhc.htm?url=https://webapps.doc.state.nc.us/opi/viewoffender.do?method=view&offenderID=0899192&searchLastName=ray&searchFirstName=darin&searchDOBRange=0&listurl=pagelistoffendersearchresults&listpage=1 (last accessed Sept. 14, 2022); Fed. R. Evid. 201. The Court will instruct the Clerk to mail the Plaintiff a copy of this Order at both of those addresses in an abundance of caution.

Plaintiff names as Defendants Sergeant Russell, a Bertie CI correctional sergeant, and Manager Lewis, a Bertie CI assistant unit manager. [Doc. 1 at 2].

Under the general venue provision of 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b), a civil action may be brought in “(1) a judicial district in which any defendant resides, if all defendants are residents of the State in which the district is located; (2) a judicial district in which a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred ... ; or (3) if there is no district in which an action may otherwise be brought as provided in this section, any judicial district in which any defendant is subject to the court’s personal jurisdiction with respect to such action.” 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b). Further, a court may transfer a civil action to any district where the action might have originally been brought “[f]or the convenience of the parties and witnesses, in the interest of justice.” 28 U.S.C. § 1404(a).

The incidents at issue in this case allegedly occurred, and the Defendants were employed, in Bertie County, which is located in the Eastern District of North Carolina. To the extent that Plaintiff may be able to state a cognizable claim against any Defendant, venue is appropriate in the Eastern District of North Carolina where the events giving rise to the claims occurred and where the Defendants appear to be located.

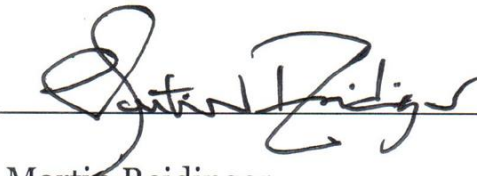
For the reasons stated herein, this action will be transferred to the Eastern District of North Carolina.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Clerk of this Court is hereby ordered to transfer this action to the Eastern District of North Carolina.

The Clerk is respectfully instructed to mail the Plaintiff a copy of this Order at the Foothills CI, as well as at Marion CI.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Signed: September 26, 2022

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Martin Reidinger", is written over a horizontal line.

Martin Reidinger
Chief United States District Judge

